

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 666

Impeaching Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of Defense, for high crimes
and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 25, 2023

Mr. MILLS (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mrs. LUNA)
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of Defense,
for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 *Resolved*, That Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of
2 Defense, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors
3 and that the following articles of impeachment be exhib-
4 ited to the United States Senate:

5 Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of
6 Representatives of the United States of America in the
7 name of itself and of the people of the United States of
8 America, against Lloyd James Austin III, Secretary of
9 Defense, in maintenance and support of its impeachment
10 against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 ARTICLE I: DERELICTION OF DUTY INCLUDING AND RE-
2 SULTING IN ABANDONMENT OF AMERICANS IN AF-
3 GHANISTAN

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5 The Constitution provides that the House of Rep-
6 resentatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment”
7 and that “all civil Officers of the United States, shall be
8 removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction
9 of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Mis-
10 demeanors”. In his conduct while Secretary of Defense,
11 and in violation of his constitutional oath to defend and
12 secure our country and uphold the Constitution, taken on
13 January 22, 2021, Lloyd James Austin III engaged in
14 high crimes and misdemeanors through his dereliction of
15 his duties and intentional abandonment of Americans in
16 Afghanistan, in that:

17 Secretary Austin took an oath to defend and secure
18 our country and uphold the Constitution when he was
19 sworn in as Secretary of Defense on January 22, 2021.
20 Article II of the United States Constitution tasks the exec-
21 utive branch with ensuring the laws passed by Congress
22 and signed into law by the President are faithfully exe-
23 cuted.

24 Despite having nearly 8 months as Secretary of De-
25 fense to prepare for and execute a smooth and orderly de-

1 parture from Afghanistan, Secretary Austin failed to ade-
2 quately prepare for such a withdrawal, including through
3 his decisions during the catastrophic events of July and
4 August 2021, which initially resulted in as many as 9,000
5 American citizens being abandoned in Afghanistan. These
6 actions recklessly abandoned the interests, security, and
7 values of the United States of America, and contributed
8 to the unnecessary deaths of 13 United States
9 servicemembers, as well as uncounted American civilians
10 who were targeted and murdered by the Taliban.

11 During the night of July 1, 2021, Bagram Air Base
12 was secretly evacuated, which was subsequently de facto
13 turned over to Afghan Government control without notice
14 to them. Because the United States Armed Forces, which
15 were under the direction of Secretary Austin and Presi-
16 dent Biden, as Commander in Chief, abandoned Bagram
17 Air Base and the prison facilities associated with it with-
18 out ensuring its persisting security throughout the remain-
19 ing duration of the United States presence in the country,
20 thousands of Taliban prisoners were freed. One of these
21 prisoners, Abdul Rehman Al-Loghri, was an ISIS–K ter-
22 rorist who detonated a bomb outside Hamid Karzai Inter-
23 national Airport (HKIA), killing 13 United States
24 servicemembers and at least 170 Afghans. The strategic
25 disadvantages of HKIA as a headquarters for the Amer-

1 ican withdrawal from Afghanistan, as compared to
2 Bagram Air Base, were blatantly apparent, and Secretary
3 Austin's decision to evacuate the base in preference for
4 HKIA caused cascading failures in the withdrawal that
5 represent a gross neglect for his constitutional duties to
6 the national security of the United States and provide for
7 the reasonable safety of the servicemembers entrusted to
8 his leadership.

9 Further, though the Taliban failed to uphold the ne-
10 gotiated agreement providing the foundation for the draw-
11 down of United States military forces from Afghanistan,
12 Secretary Austin failed in his responsibility to modify the
13 strategy or logistics related to the removal of United
14 States military personnel from Afghanistan, including to
15 delay the United States drawdown or otherwise mitigate
16 persisting threats posed by the Taliban and their affiliated
17 forces to the United States. Instead, Secretary Austin
18 forced an arbitrary withdrawal deadline of September 11,
19 despite substantial evidence and other intelligence being
20 available that the United States lacked the capabilities to
21 effectively implement this deadline without assuming sig-
22 nificant costs, including of American lives. Secretary Aus-
23 tin's strategic and moral blindness to the glaring flaws in
24 the withdrawal strategy represents an extraordinary dere-

1 liction of his duties to the Constitution and to the people
2 of the United States of America.

3 Wherefore, Lloyd James Austin III, by such conduct,
4 has forsaken his sworn duties to the United States of
5 America, its national security, and its people, and has
6 acted in a manner grossly incompatible with the Constitu-
7 tion and the Office of Secretary of Defense. Lloyd James
8 Austin III thus warrants impeachment and trial, and re-
9 moval from office.

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